



EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EL 477 036 475 US

10A
L

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Cobb et al.

Application No.: 09/686,346

Group Art Unit: 1652

Filed: October 10, 2000

Examiner: M. Monshipouri

For: TAO PROTEIN KINASE POLYPEPTIDES
AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

Attorney Docket No.: 10624-026-999

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121**

RECEIVED
MAY 28 2002
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 21, 2002, please consider the amendments and remarks below. Also submitted herewith are: (a) a Petition to Extend Time accompanied by the required fee; (b) Fee Transmittal Sheet; and (c) a copy of the claims as pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment as Appendix A.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-27 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 28-48 to read as follows:

28. A method for screening for a modulator of MAP kinase signal transduction comprising:

- A (
- (a) contacting a TAO polypeptide or variant thereof with an agent;
 - (b) incubating said contacted TAO with a MEK polypeptide; and
 - (c) determining the level of MEK activation,

wherein detecting a change in the level of MEK activation relative to a MEK incubated with a TAO polypeptide not contacted with said agent indicates that said agent is a modulator.